

Rep. Laura Cox Testimony on HB 5559

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the Members of the committee.

I'm Dillon McGough, Legislative Director for Representative Laura Cox, and I'm here today to testify on her behalf regarding a very important piece of legislation, HB 5559, that aims to protect our children from preventable injury and death due to improper car seat safety. With me, I have Dr. Michelle Macy, who is a fellowship-trained pediatric health services researcher and pediatric emergency physician with the University of Michigan Health System's C.S Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. Dr. Macy has a focus on child passenger restraint behaviors among parents of children younger than 13 years and we are lucky to have her here with us, today.

It is known that motor vehicle collisions are the leading cause of death for children older than 4 years of age and the second leading cause of death among children 1 to 4 years of age in the U.S. Each year more than 140,000 children from birth to age 12 are treated in U.S. emergency departments after a crash.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recommend children use a rear facing car seat as long as possible followed by a forward facing car seat until the child reaches the weight or height limits of their car seat. After outgrowing their car seat, children should use a booster seat until an adult seatbelt fits properly, which is expected at a height of 57 inches or 4'9.

Representative Cox's bill, HB 5559, aims to bring Michigan in line with national guidelines by requiring that a child use:

- A rear facing car seat until age 2 or 30 pounds
- Forward facing car seat until age 5 or 50 pounds
- Booster seat until age 10 or 57 inches

We have a duty to help ensure the safety of our children while traveling in vehicles and I am confident that this legislation will help us move closer to that goal by greatly reducing the number of preventable child injuries and death resulting from motor vehicle accidents.

Representative Cox would truly appreciate the committee member's support on HB 5559.

Now, I will turn things over to Dr. Michelle Macy.